



Lavender Library, Archives  
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Sacramento, CA

# Lambda Letters Project

32565

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6212 Silverton Way, Carmichael, California 95608

Phone (916) 965-6851

## The Price of Liberty

In view of the carnage of last November's election, some people may be tempted to give up on the efforts of the Lambda Letters Project. Don't despair! There is considerable good news among the bad. For example:

- ♦ For the first time an open lesbian was elected to the State Legislature: Sheila Kuehl (D) of Santa Monica.
- ♦ Three openly gay men were re-elected to the House of Representatives: Steve Gunderson (R) of Wisconsin, and Gerry Studds (D) and Barney Frank (D) of Massachusetts.
- ♦ 110 of last year's 120 sponsors of the federal gay rights bill were re-elected to the House of Representatives and all 13 U.S. Senate sponsors of the bill who were up for re-election were re-elected. Also, 10 new members of the House have agreed to sponsor the bill.
- ♦ The anti-gay referenda in Oregon and Idaho were defeated.

Nevertheless, the winners of the election will seek to reverse many of the advances of past years in AIDS programs, lesbian/gay/bisexual rights, and women's right to abortion. Anti-immigrant legislation will also make life increasingly difficult for people of color.

President Clinton is a weak president and we can expect little help from him. More than ever before, it is essential that we bring the full weight of our

## Attend Our Meeting!

The second annual membership meeting of the Lambda Letters Project is scheduled for **Saturday, January 21, 1995**, at the Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer, 4641 Marconi Ave. at Mission in Sacramento. People will assemble at 9 a.m. for coffee and donuts. The business meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. The agenda includes a report on the accomplishments of LLP in 1994, approval of the 1995 budget, election of new Board members, and other business that may properly come before the meeting. *Please plan to attend!*

community's views to bear on our legislators. The face-to-face lobbying by groups like LIFE AIDS Lobby, the Human Rights Campaign fund, California NOW, and others is essential. Moreover, many legislators ignore the views of groups unless they are supported by massive input (i.e., your letters!) from the voters in their legislative districts.

We are at an important crossroad. If we surrender in despair now, much of the progress in recent years will be reversed. If we hang in there with courage and determination, we will yet win the day. Thomas Jefferson once said, "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty." That has never been truer than now. Come be vigilant with us, and support the Lambda Letters Project.

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## Lambda Letters Progress Report

### Letters Collected

November	2,454 letters
In 1994	28,297 letters total

### Dollars Spent

November	\$3,545
In 1994	\$20,567 total

### Can You Help?

Please support the very important work of the Lambda Letters Project with your contributions.



## Lambda Letters Project

### Statement of Purpose

*To promote people of color, feminist, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and HIV/AIDS status advocacy and to bring people of color, women, lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and persons affected by or living with HIV/AIDS status into full participation in the mainstream of American society now, exercising all the privileges and responsibilities thereof.*

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Faces of Sacramento

### Change of Address Form

Please change my address to:

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Mail to LLP, 6212 Silverton Way, Carmichael, CA 95608.

☐ Yes, I want to make a donation to help LLP continue its important work. (Appreciated but not required.)

☐ \$10   ☐ \$20\*   ☐ \$30   ☐ other \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(\*Actual cost to LLP for you to receive 44 letters in one year.)

## Savings Spree Books Available at Bargain Price!

Entertainment Publications has donated 12 Savings Spree Books to Lambda Letters to help us in our fund-raising efforts. This book is similar to the Entertainment Book except that its coupons are good at all kinds of stores *in the Sacramento area*—food markets, clothing stores, auto repair shops, home improvement and furnishing stores, health and beauty stores, toy stores, pet stores, and more.

The book has hundreds of percent-off coupons, some of them worth up to \$100. This book normally sells for \$25, but since it expires in April, 1995, we are offering it for just \$5 while they last. If you would like one, and you live in the Sacramento area, just send us a check along with your name, address, and phone number. We will send the book to you.

## Entertainment Books Available, Good Value

You say you've been meaning to get an Entertainment Book for yourself, but have been too busy buying gifts for others? Now that the rush of the holidays are over you owe it to yourself to take yourself and your special someone out to a quiet dinner at a nice restaurant. You say you spent too much on gifts and can't afford it? Well, you can still purchase a book from Lambda Letters, and the 2-for-1 specials in it are good until November 1, 1995. So you have plenty of time to get your money's worth out of it many times over. Go ahead, pamper yourself and someone you love. Order your book today by completing and sending us the order form at the end of the newsletter.

## E-mail Us!

We would like to be able to notify you quickly of legislative events that need your immediate response. If you have e-mail, please send your address to boyceh1021@aol.com (we are on America Online).



## Encouraging Something Better Than Prop. 187

A growing concern about illegal immigration in this country, combined with the overwhelming passage of Proposition 187 in California, has already prompted much talk about new proposals to address this issue at the federal level. Political pundits and politicians alike predict that the new Congress will follow Proposition 187's approach, focusing much of its attention on depriving illegal immigrants of various rights and services, rather than truly solving the problems of illegal immigration.

The distinction between these two approaches is important. While denying benefits to an entire sector of the population may promise immediate budgetary savings, the long-term costs will far exceed any short-term savings. People who are denied basic health care will inevitably cost taxpayers more when they spread untreated diseases or when their minor health problems become major ones requiring costly emergency room treatment. And children who are denied education will burden society in the long term by increasing unemployment, homelessness, poverty, and, most important, crime. Moreover, simply denying government-sponsored services does nothing to address the cause of illegal immigration—jobs.

A real solution to the problem of illegal immigration must eliminate the promise of jobs and physically prevent people from crossing our borders illegally. As long as employers are willing to exploit the cheap labor of illegal immigrants, and until we commit sufficient resources to maintain our borders

## Breast Cancer Testing Breakthrough

A recent study by the House Committee on Government Operations has discovered that by using a panel biased toward traditional methodologies, the National Cancer Institute opposed a new technique of breast cancer screening that accurately identifies 90 percent of tumors found in women's breasts.

This technique, which uses a radioactive tracer to find breast tumors, is painless, harmless, and costs only a fraction of the price of a biopsy. The traditional technique of using biopsies to determine whether growths are cancerous is very painful and can be disfiguring. It is also expensive, ranging from \$3,000–5,000. By comparison, the radioactive tracer test costs only about \$600.

This new technique is an innovation in women's health care, particularly in the area of breast cancer detection and treatment. We need to encourage the National Cancer Institute to be unbiased and fair in its investigations of potential life-saving techniques. We also need to promote this testing as part of women's national health care.

Please write to Senator Diane Feinstein to support the radioactive tracer-treating technique.

adequately, people will continue to come to this country illegally.

This month's letter asks the members of Congress to avoid Proposition 187's appealing, yet ill-conceived approach to the illegal immigration problem and contemplate more realistic solutions.

### **Advertising Rates**

**Business-card sized ads (3½" × 2") \$10 per issue**

**Quarter-page ads \$20 per issue**

**Half-page ads \$30 per issue**

**Full-page ads \$50 per issue**

**Send payment and your camera-ready copy, along with your name and phone number, to:**

**Lambda Letters Project**

**6212 Silverton Way**

**Carmichael, CA 95608**

**Deadline is the 25th of each month.**

### **Letter and Article Composer Needed**

**We are looking for someone in the Sacramento area with good writing skills to spend about 10 hours a month researching possible lesbian/gay/bisexual subjects and then composing sample letters and articles for our newsletter. He or she would need to attend a monthly staff meeting in which each month's subjects are chosen. LLP can provide leads on how to find suitable subjects and advice on writing, if needed. This is a great opportunity for you to influence the subjects we cover. If interested, send us a note with your letters or call Boyce Hinman at (916) 965-6851.**



## Col. Cammermeyer Support Needed

Please write to U.S. Solicitor General Drew S. Days, urging him to drop the government's appeal in the case of Colonel Margarethe Cammermeyer v. Aspin. A personal letter from you would have the most effective impact, but if you are unable to compose your own letter feel free to sign the enclosed sample letter.

Col. Cammermeyer is a naturalized U.S. citizen who was born in Norway in 1942 and immigrated to the United States at the age of nine. She has 29 years of distinguished service in the Army, the Veteran's Administration, and the Washington State National Guard. She first enlisted as an Army Student Nurse during the '60s and, as a result of her outstanding record, rose steadily from the rank of Lieutenant to full Colonel. She was awarded the Bronze Star in 1968 for "distinguishing herself by outstanding meritorious service" in Vietnam. In 1985 she was selected from among 34,500 Veterans Administration nurses nationwide to receive the first annual Administrator's Award for Excellence in Nursing. Then, in 1986, Col. Cammermeyer received an "A" professional designation from the United States Army Surgeon General, the highest award that can be made in recognition of professional accomplishment within the Army Medical Department.

However, in 1987 Colonel Cammermeyer sought admission to the Army War College to receive training she considered essential to become Chief Nurse of the National Guard. To obtain admission she had to undergo a security clearance interview. During that interview she was asked about her sexual orientation. She answered truthfully that she is a lesbian.

As a result, in June, 1992, she was discharged from the National Guard. However, late last year a U.S. District Court ordered her reinstatement. The government asked the 9th U.S. Court of appeals to stay this decision and keep Col. Cammermeyer out of the service while the government appealed. However, the court refused to stay the decision and Col. Cammermeyer was reinstated. The government is now deciding whether or not to appeal Col. Cammermeyer's reinstatement.

## Some Military Victories

The courts have been very busy with cases relating to gays in the military and some very interesting decisions have been made. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a lower court ruling requiring the government to keep gay sailor Keith Meinhold in the Navy. A short time later, the government announced that it would not appeal the decision. Meinhold and the lesbian/gay/bisexual community won! Solicitor General Days called the government's decision a strategic decision: Meinhold had been charged under the military's former anti-gay policy and some think the government is more interested in defending the current policy in court.

In another case, U.S. District Judge William Dwyer issued a preliminary injunction in late December blocking the Navy's plan to discharge Petty Officer 2nd Class Mark Philips. A Navy board of inquiry had recommended that the gay submarine machinist's mate be discharged. The judge scheduled a hearing on the issue for February 22nd. In the meantime, Philips stays in the Navy.

The government lost again in the case of Navy Lieutenant Zoe Dunning. In that case, a Navy disciplinary panel ruled that Lieutenant Dunning's unblemished record of service was more important than her sexual orientation. The panel's recommendation must now be considered by the Secretary of the Navy, who will decide whether or not to accept it.

In another Navy case, the full 3rd U.S. District Court of Appeals ruled against Midshipman Joseph Steffan, who was forced to resign from the U.S. Naval Academy just weeks before graduation after informing his superiors that he is gay. A three-judge panel of the 3rd Circuit Court had ruled in Steffan's favor, but the government appealed to the full 11 judges of that court. In this appeal hearing, amicus briefs in support of Steffan were submitted by AmFAR, the ACLU, the American Jewish Congress, the Asian American Legal Defense Fund, and the Puerto Rican Defense Fund, among others. Unfortunately, the court ruled against Steffan. There has been no announcement on whether Steffan will appeal to the Supreme Court, but it is clear that several groups outside the general lesbian/gay community supported an important cause!

Finally, there is the case of Col. Cammermeyer, described at left. The government may plan to appeal the decision of the District Court in Seattle in her favor, unless we and other groups can persuade them otherwise.



# Congressional Funding: Many Questions Left

By now we all know how the recent elections have changed the makeup of both Congress and the State Legislature. What we don't know yet is just how bad things are really going to be. At this moment, President Clinton is trying to "out-Republican the Republicans," at one point even suggesting eliminating the Department of Housing and Urban Development. If this were to be done, would the AIDS Housing Opportunities Act (HOPWA) be funded, and who would administer it?

This month we are writing members of California's delegation in the House of Representatives, urging them to fund HIV/AIDS programs for the 1996 fiscal year at the level that has been recommended by a nationwide coalition of HIV/AIDS service organizations. We are also asking that they not cut existing funding for 1995.

The President's budget recommendations for FY 1996 will not be available until early January. As our letter states, Congress can change them before the final passage of appropriations bills. Unfortunately, this change can go down as well as up! Table 1 shows the funding levels we are recommending for FY 1996. All of these are increases over 1995 levels, but HIV diseases are on the increase, too, and our educational programs are not working as they could. Gay, lesbian, and bisexual youth, as well as women in general (especially those of color) and their children, suffer the greatest increases in new cases of HIV infection. We need more and better educational programs targeted toward them.

The Ryan White Care Act is the funding source for the majority of local (city and county level) AIDS programs. Unfortunately, the Act expires in October, 1995, and it has not yet been reauthorized. We had hoped, indeed expected, that this would happen at the end of the last Congressional session, but political maneuvering by both parties prevented this from happening. It's not that there was a concerted effort to avoid reauthorization, it just never made it to the floor for a vote!

Despite its many problems, the federal government must continue to fund HIV-related research. In late 1994, Clinton threatened to defund all federal

Table 1. Congressional Funding Levels Requested for FY 1996 (in millions)

Funding Area	Funding Proposed	Increase over FY 1995
HIV/AIDS prevention education (Centers for Disease Control & Prevention)	\$723.30	\$133
Ryan White Care Act (Health Resources and Services Administration)	\$933.90	\$301
HIV/AIDS research (National Institutes of Health)	\$1,692.00	\$345
HIV/AIDS housing (AIDS Housing Opportunities Act)	\$337.00	\$151

housing acts. We can only hope that this was not successful; HOPWA needs to be continued. Without it, more and more people with HIV diseases will live and die on our streets.

Many of you have new congresspeople, as well as new state legislators. Hopefully you will make your names and voices known to those elected lawmakers and make an impact on their voting behavior!

## St. Gregory's Ecumenical Catholic Church

Sunday Mass - 7:00 p.m.

Meeting in the Fireside Room, Central United Methodist Church 53rd and H Streets

All people are welcome at St. Gregory's.  
Not some people, But all!

Father Philip Deemer, Pastor - 725-9221

Adults \* Adolescents \* Children

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# A Double Standard at Safeway Stores?

In November many of you wrote to Safeway urging them not to carry products from Ward's Cove Cannery because of that company's open policy of discriminating against people of color. Safeway responded saying they have a policy of not boycotting any product and so cannot agree to our request.

In a followup letter to Safeway, Lambda Letters Administrator Boyce Hinman noted that Safeway had removed vending machines of *Sacramento News & Review* from its stores because some people disliked the paper's content, including its gay-positive articles. Safeway responded by saying, "We have never sold the *Sacramento News & Review* nor have its self-vending display racks been in our stores." However, an interested party has sent a copy of another letter regarding *Sacramento News & Review* written by Steven Burd of Safeway last October. This letter says, "You may be interested to know that our Northern California retail division withdrew its authorization for this publication's store-front racks more than a year ago. Local management took this action primarily in response to customer complaints."

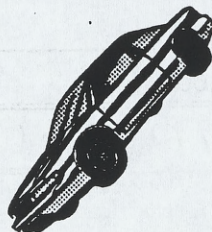
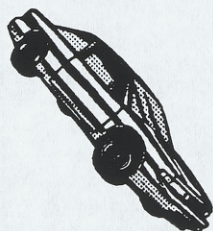
We think Safeway is employing a double standard, refusing to carry an alternative press, gay-positive paper because of some people's complaints, yet carrying the products of a company that discriminates against people of color, despite our (and other groups') complaints. You may want to drop them a line about this inconsistency and urge them to drop the products of Ward's Cove Cannery. Write to:

Steven A. Burd  
Safeway, Inc.  
4th and Jackson Streets  
Oakland, CA 94660

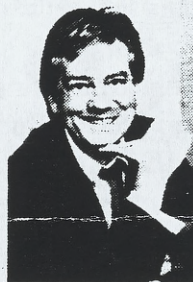
## PINK TRIANGLE TRAFFIC SCHOOL

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it might as well be  
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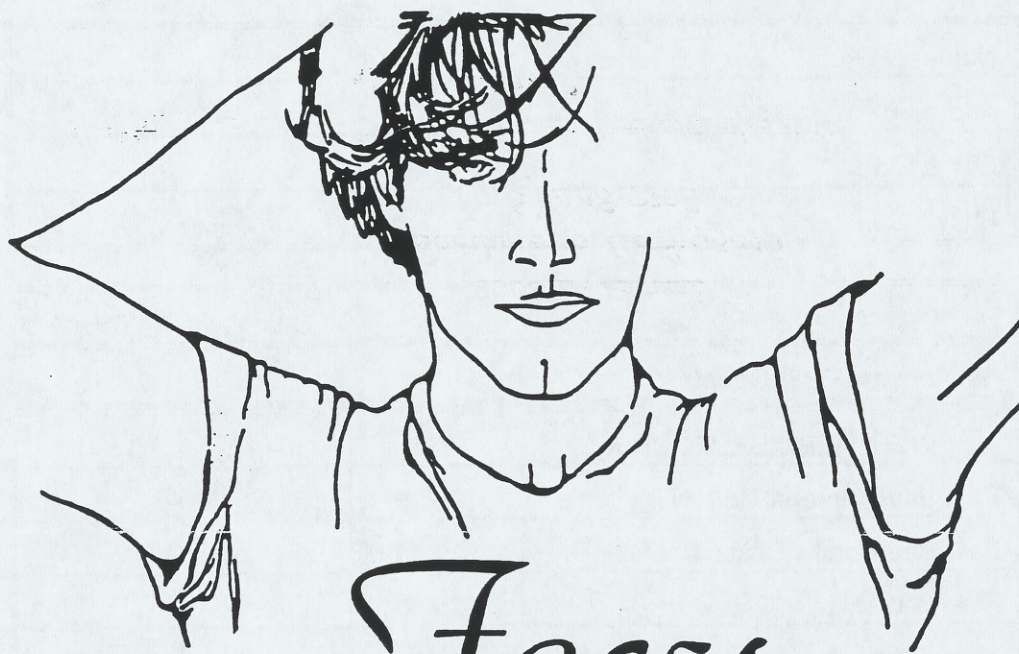
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SACRAMENTO AREA	Price	Quantity	Total \$
Sacramento/Gold Country	\$40.00		
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*Tuesday - Karaoke - Video Bar, \$5000 cash  
National Contest. Ask for details.*

*Wednesday - Ladies Night  
Country 7:00-10:00 P.M.  
Disco 10:00-2:00 A.M.*

*Thursday - Blue Hankie Party - Patio Bar  
Drink Specials*

*Friday - Saturday  
Disco - 10:00-2:00 A.M.*

*Sunday - Barbrae - Open 3:00 P.M.*

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*Happy Birthday  
Kerry H.  
Love, Jerry*